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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA	
(1) ROBERT BALES and ) (2) DANIELLE BALES, )	
Plaintiffs, )	
-vs- ) Case No. 22-CV-00851	
(1) STATE FARM FIRE AND ) CASUALTY COMPANY, )	
Defendant. )	
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	*
DEPOSITION OF ROBERT BALES	
TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT	
TAKEN AT 525 SOUTH MAIN STREET	
TULSA, OKLAHOMA	
JULY 21, 2023	
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	*
BALLARD REPORTING 611 WEST 15TH STREET, C-3 TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74127 (918) 407-2278 ballardreporting@gmail.com	
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REPORTED BY: ASHLEY BALLARD, CSR

EXHIBIT 1

- after you guys purchased it up until the subject
- 2 loss?
- 3 A. Excuse me?
- 4 Q. Let me just ask you.
- 5 A. Sure.
- Q. You purchased this house that you guys are living in now in 2020; correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And this loss, the claim notes indicate a date of loss of December of '21 or January of '22; correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- Q. Did you guys make any roof repairs or modifications to the house from the time you bought it in 2020 up
- 14 until December of '21?
- 15 A. Just the paint.
- 16 Q. And I think she said that was JJ's, if I remember
  17 correctly, or J --
- 18 | A. I believe so.
- 19 Q. We talked earlier with your wife about the Father's
- 20 Day storm that came through and affected most of
- 21 Tulsa.
- 22 A. Uh-huh.
- 23 Q. Do you recall that?
- 24 | A. Oh, yes.
- 25 Q. And tell me what your recollection is of any damage

- 1 that was sustained to your house in that storm.
- 2 A. That's when the blue tarp flew off like a kite like 3 everything else around in the neighborhood.
- Q. And you're talking about the tarp that was placed by OCR?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. In this claim?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Okay. So it blew off. Were you outside when it blew off?
- 11 A. Are you kidding me?
- 12 Q. Well, you said it flew like a kite, so are you -13 did you see it fly like a kite or are you just
- 14 assuming that it flew like a kite?
- 15 A. I'm assuming, I'm sure.
- 16 Q. Okay. Well, I don't want you to assume. I just
- want to know what you know or what you don't know.
- That's all I'm here to do today; okay?
- 19 A. Okay.
- 20 Q. Nonetheless, you determined that the tarp got blown off --
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. -- at some point? Did you know the next day?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Any other damage you observed other than the

16 tarp being gone? 1 2 Like I said, I'm not getting on that roof. handle it -- let the professionals handle that. 3 Ι 4 called them. They came out and the tarp grew 5 probably 200 percent. Understand. I've seen your roof. My dad is a 6 Ο. 7 roofer. I grew up roofing. Your roof is steep. 8 don't blame you for not getting up there. 9 But my question is: When you see the tarp is 10 gone, you can see where there are no shingles, true, from the ground? 11 12 Maybe. Α. Okay. Did you observe any other damage? Even 13 0. 14 though you didn't get up on the roof, did you 15 observe any other damage other than the tarp being 16 gone? 17 I don't recall. Α. 18 Did you have any leaking as a result of the Q. Father's Day storm? 19 20 Α. I don't recall. 21 You said that a new tarp was placed on your roof? Q. 22 Correct. Α. Who did that? 23 Ο. 24 Α. OCR.

When did they do that?

25

Q.

- Q. Okay. Do you have any training as it relates to determination of hail damage or wind damage to
- 3 shingles?
- 4 A. No.
- Q. When did you first become aware of this claim?When did you notice the loss?
- A. When a storm that came through, there was lots of hail. There was -- it kept everybody up. It was -- nobody went to bed until like 3:00 in the morning.

  The next day, shingles were gone and that's when I
- 12 Q. Storm comes through at night.
- 13 A. Uh-huh.

11

14 Q. The next day, you go outside and see some shingles are gone?

became aware that we had a problem.

- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Are shingles in your yard or are they just missing?
- 18 A. They're missing.
- 19 Q. Do you know what day that was?
- 20 A. I don't recall.
- 21 | Q. Do you recall if that was in January or December?
- 22 A. I don't recall.
- Q. And I talked a little bit. I've seen a date of loss as 12/5/21 and then 1/5/22. Do you have any knowledge as to which one of those is actually the

- date of loss? 1
- 2 Flip a coin. I don't know.
- 3 How many shingles were missing that you saw? Ο.
- 4 Α. Several.
- 5 Any other damage to the home? Ο.
- 6 Α. Hail.
- 7 Where did you observe hail damage? Q.
- 8 That is for the professionals. I was notified that
- 9 there was extensive hail damage.
- Okay. I want to talk about what you know. What 10 Q.
- 11 did you observe? You said you got some missing
- 12 shingles.
- 13 Correct. Α.
- That's the west side, isn't it? 14 O.
- 15 Α. Correct. Correct.
- 16 Okay. What else did you observe? You, yourself. Ο.
- 17 I'm not quite sure what you're asking for. Α.
- 18 What other damage to your home did you observe Q.
- other than missing shingles? 19
- 20 Α. Damage to the guttering.
- 21 Q. What part of the guttering?
- 22 All the way around. Α.
- Did you walk around the house? 23 Ο.
- Yes, I did. 24 Α.
- And you saw damage to all -- you could see dings in 25 Q.

- 1 Q. How big was that tarp? Do you know?
- 2 A. Well, big enough to see it from the ground.
- 3 Q. Do you recall seeing an invoice for that tarp?
- 4 A. It was an emergency, so ...
- 5 Q. Sir, that had nothing to do with my question.
- 6 A. I don't know.
- 7 Q. Do you recall seeing an invoice for that tarp?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. I'll represent to you there is an invoice
  10 that has dimensions of that tarp. It's about four
- 11 feet.
- 12 A. Oh, okay.
- 13 Q. A little bit wider than a standard shingle.
- 14 | A. Okay.
- 15 Q. Would you have any reason to disagree with that?
- 16 A. I don't -- I don't -- you know, I don't see why
- 17 not.
- 18 Q. And testimony earlier from your wife was no repairs
- were ever made to your roof from the time that tarp
- 20 was placed until this Father's Day storm in June of
- 21 '23 --
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 | Q. -- correct?
- 24 And in June of '23 the tarp blew off?
- 25 A. Correct.

then there are what we deem expert witnesses.

- 2 A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. Expert witnesses have a certain expertise,
- 4 technical or scientific background that are utilized
- in cases to explain things to jurors and they're
- 6 deemed the experts.
- 7 | A. Okay.
- 8 Q. Do you know if you have retained an expert -
- 9 construction expert, roofing expert, claims handling
- 10 expert in this particular case?
- 11 A. I would say that a roofing company and a public
- adjuster, my opinion, would be experts.
- 13 | Q. And I'll just say, from your discovery responses,
- 14 you've listed Meleah --
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 | O. -- at OCR.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. But your discovery responses say you have not yet
- 19 retained an expert. So other than Meleah at OCR,
- 20 are you aware of anybody else?
- 21 A. No. No.
- 22 Q. Okay. Interrogatory No. 3. I think it's page 5.
- 23 A. Okay.
- 24 Q. There in the middle of it, it just says (as read):
- 25 "Plaintiff's contractors sent detailed Xactimate